

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the consideration of the present application afforded by the Examiner. Claims 1-30 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 1-4, 7-14, 17-24, and 27-30 have been canceled through this Reply. Claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 25, and 26 remain pending and are now in independent form. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate that claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 25, and 26 are indicated to define allowable subject matter.

To expedite prosecution, the claims indicated as defining allowable subject matter have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. The remaining non-allowed claims have been canceled through this Reply.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that the cancellation of claims in this Reply shall not be construed as acquiescence to the grounds of rejection brought forth by the Examiner in the Office Action, and are made merely in the interest of expeditious prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled limitation in any future continuation application deriving from the instant application.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John R. Sanders, Reg. No. 60,166 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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